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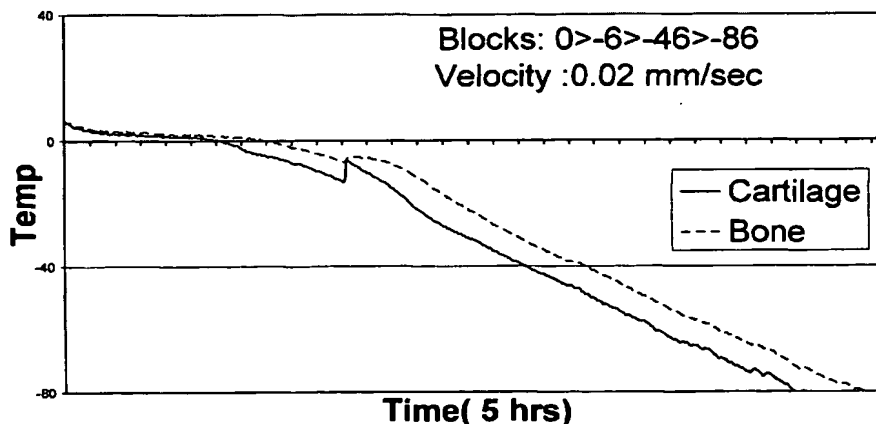
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR FREEZING, THAWING AND TRANSPLANTATION OF VIABLE CARTILAGE

### Cartilage cylinder cooling rate



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a method for providing a patient having impaired cartilage in an organ at a target site, with corresponding viable cartilage, possibly osteochondral cartilage. The method comprises freezing the cartilage by cooling it at a cooling rate of 0.01°C/min to 3°C/min. Thawing of the cartilage may be by warming it to a temperature that is at least substantially equal to the melting temperature of the solution in which it was frozen, at a rate sufficiently high to minimize recrystallization. The thawed viable cartilage may then be grafted into the target site. Also disclosed are frozen viable cartilage and thawed viable cartilage.



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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*